Doct J. B King

TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

NANTUCKET

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY,

FOR

1868:

TOGETHER WITH A

LIST OF PREMIUMS

OFFERED FOR 1869.

PUBLISHED BY THE SOCIETY.

NANTUCKET:
HUSSEY & ROBINSON, PRINTERS—INQUIRER & MIRROR OFFICE.
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OFFICERS FOR 1868.

The Twelfth Annual Meeting of the Society, was held at their room on the 21st of October, 1867, and the following-named members were elected for officers for the year A. D., 1868, being the Twelfth year of the existence of the Society:—

President,

AUGUSTUS FRANKLIN,

Vice-Presidents.

FREDERICK C. SANFORD, WILLIAM H. WAITT,
OBED STARBUCK, EDWARD F. EASTON.

Secretary,

ALEXANDER MACY, JR.

Treasurer,

GEORGE W. MACY.

Standing Committee on Crops,

JAMES THOMPSON, LEVI S. COFFIN,
RICHARD E. BURGESS, WILLIAM B. STARBUCK,
CHARLES C. FOLGER.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE THIRTEENTH

CATTLE SHOW AND FAIR,

OF THE

NANTUCKET AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The thirteenth year of the history of the Nantucket Agricultural Society was closed with their annual exhibition on Wednesday and Thursday, the 30th of September and 1st of October, 1868. With the memory of the early years of our Society, are associated the labors of a number of zealous co-workers, who have passed away to other lands, and some to that bourne from whence no traveller returns; but their deeds will remain, as mementos of the public spirit and faithfulness with which they labored to organize the Society and initiate the first Fair and Exhibition.

It may be well to compare the first Exhibition, held

October 28th, 1856, with this, the thirteenth. At the first Fair, there were exhibited but 38 head of cows, heifers and calves; at this, the thirteenth, 80 head of grade and native cows and heifers, and 30 head of thorough-bred cows, heifers, &c., were on exhibition; total, 110 head. In the Fair of 1856, 1 pair of oxen; this year, 9 pairs of oxen and steers. In 1856, 4 entries of bulls; this year, 8. In 1856, 1 sow and 6 pigs; this year, boars, sows and pigs numbered 41; and in 1856, but 6 sheep and lambs; this year, 26. This striking contrast is an indication of great increase in good stock worthy of exhibition at a county Fair, of the right spirit and enterprise of our farmers to display them, and to sustain our exhibition now and in future time.

Much credit is due to them and to our town residents, for the unprecedentedly large display of stock of every class on the grounds this year. When we consider the great prostration of our leading business, whaling, during the period of the history of our Society, of the failure in the attempts to introduce manufactures for business, and of the general decline in all branches of trade and every source of public revenue, except agriculture, we are encouraged with the improvement in our farms, the cultivation of the soil and the raising of excellent stock.

A steamer could not be procured this year to make regular excursion trips from New Bedford during Fair days, and there was not as large a number present as last year. A large company of excursionists came from Boston, New Bedford, and other points on the road, via Hyannis. They were accompanied to the Island on

Tuesday by Smith & Hawes' New Bedford Brass Band, who were engaged to perform during the Fair days, and entertained them on the trip.

Another favorite social dance was much enjoyed at the Atlantic Hall, by those who availed themselves of the opportunity of an excellent quadrille band to enjoy an evening's recreation.

AT THE GROUNDS.

The weather was clear and dry, and very favorable for the exhibition, which was opened on Wednesday by a very large display of excellent neat stock, swine and poultry. It surpassed in numbers any former year. All the enclosures for neat stock were crowded, and several herds were secured around them. One hundred and sixteen head of this class were on the grounds, and presented an interesting scene to the farmer and stock-raiser. There were all varieties numbered in the families of Thorough-bred Alderneys and Ayrshires, grades of all mixtures and pure natives, so called, from having been for several years distinct from any imported to the Island. First in notice were the pure Thoroughbreds. Mr. James Thompson, the pioneer in the importation of thorough-bred Alderneys, had a range of thirteen head. Two noble-looking bulls, "Don Pedro" and "General Sherman," were in the herd. He received the first premium of $10 for the best herd of five Alderney cows; first premium of $5 for "Lady May," best single Alderney; second premium of $4 for "Daisy," second best Alderney; for the best two-year old in milk, "Gipsy," the first premium of $4; the best one-year old heifer "Sylvia," the first premium of $2. This was the largest collection ever exhibited in the county by one man. Frederick C. Sanford exhibited three very choice Alderneys. William R. Easton, a fine-looking

Alderney. Levi S. Coffin, two heifers and calves, Alderneys. Dr. Augustus Franklin exhibited an excellent Alderney, "Hattie," and received the second premium of $3; also, a very fine Alderney, "Princess." Alfred Swain, a two years old heifer, "Violet," of this class, which received the first premium of $3. Matthew Macy, "Beauty," a fine Alderney, received the second premium of $2. Edward Hammond, "Josephine," a yearling, second premium of $1. Edward M. Gardner and Levi S. Coffin, two calves, received premiums.

There were some fine looking Ayrshires exhibited. Charles C. Folger received the first premium for his "Rosa," 3d, the best Ayrshire, $5. Manuel Enas, for the best two year old heifer, "Beauty," first premium, $3. Charles C. Folger, for the second best one year old, "Lady McDonald," received the premium of $2. Manuel Enas, for best calf, "Flora," first premium, $1. Charles C. Folger, for second best calf, "Flora," 50 cents. Manuel Enas, for best one year old, "Lily," first premium, $2. F. C. Sanford exhibited a superior thorough-bred Alderney bull, "Abe Lincoln," and received the first premium, $12. James Thompson, an excellent Alderney, "Gen. Sherman," and received the second premium, $10. He also exhibited a fine noble bull, "Don Pedro," a pure Alderney, whose ancestry dates back through a long line to the most distinguished of this race. Levi S. Coffin exhibited "Gen. Burnside," and received the third premium, $8. Charles C. Folger exhibited his excellent bull, "Tam O'Shanter," with the highest pedigree of the Ayrshire breed, and received the first premium $12. Others were exhibited. (See report on this class for particulars.)

There were thirty-six heads of Thorough-breds and eighty of Grades and Natives. Among the latter were seven herds, which did much credit to their keeping: some of them would compare favorably as milkers with the thorough-breds, and many would have been entitled

to premiums for fat cattle. I would refer you to the very descriptive and elaborate report of the Committee on this class, for a list of awards and the qualities of the animals. They merited all the meed of praise given them, and showed that care and attention in feeding will improve the condition of all stock to a surprising extent, be they of home or foreign extract. Nine pairs of oxen were on exhibition; they were heavy animals and praiseworthy. (See report of Committee for awards.)

There were exhibited the following superior family horses, which were well worthy of premiums, viz.: To Richard E. Burgess, first premium, $8; Dr. Augustus Franklin, second premium, $6; John M. Bovey, third premium, $4; William Nixon, fourth premium, $2. Others were exhibited. (Please see report of Committee.)

There were exhibited two draught horses, which received the following premiums: —Richard E. Burgess, for best, first premium, $5; Franklin Worth, for second best, second premium, $3; and to R. E. Burgess, for best pair, first premium, $6. None walked around the track within the limits of time allowed. (See report for account.)

There was a very large and fine exhibition of mares and colts. The colts were very large for their ages, and in excellent condition and spirits. They were quite unlike the Nantucket colts raised twenty years since, which were compelled to roam over our commons for their scanty winter fare, without shelter, exposed to the bitter piercing winds of our Northern winters. A great reform has been introduced in attention to our horses and rearing colts.

Mr. James Thompson exhibited his "Black Prince," the best four years old colt, and received the first premium of $5. He also exhibited two yearlings, "Rocket" and "Juno," descendants in a direct line from old

"Black Hawk." "Juno" took the first premium, $4.

Joseph Vincent exhibited six very fine colts and an excellent mare; "Robin" and "Lightfoot," 3 years old, "Trusty," "Belle" and "Star," 2 years; "Lady Hope," 4 months and 17 days old, weight 365 pounds, received the second premium, $2; his mare "Jenny," received the first premium, $6. Dr. Augustus Franklin exhibited his excellent mare "Jenny," with colt by her side, and received the second premium of $5; he also received the first premium of $3 for colt. This colt was a remarkably fine animal, well worthy of the first award, and attracted much attention for his spirit and symmetry of form; age 5 months. Levi S. Coffin received the third premium of $4 for his mare and colt. William R Easton exhibited his "Lady Webster," a fine robust colt, 3 years old, weight 995 pounds, and obtained the second premium, $4. William H. Smith, for his "Nellie," a superior 3 years old colt, received the first premium $5. Joseph M. Folger received for his "Flora Temple," the third premium, $2. William R. Perkins received the second premium of $3, for his "Jennie," a fine yearling. Charles Starbuck, for his 2 years old "Robin," first premium, $4. Albert Bartlett, for his 2 years old, "Fanny," second premium of $3. Edward Hammond, third premium, for his mare and colt, $3; also, third premium for 2 year old, $3. Thomas Gibbs, third premium for his three years old colt, $3. John J. Backus, for his noble stallion "Prince," first premium, $25. Other fine horses were exhibited, to which awards were not made.

There were seven entries of swine. James Thompson exhibited the best Chester County sow, with ten pigs eleven weeks old—an interesting family—and received the first premium, $5. Charles C. Folger, one half Chester County sow with eight pigs, and received the second premium, $3. David W. Burgess, one sow and seven pigs, received third premium, $2. Joseph

M. Folger, best lot of six pigs, first premium, $4. Charles Folger entered a fine lot of four Chester County pigs, and received a gratuity of $2. Charles G. S. Austin, one Chester County sow, and received a gratuity of $1. Dr. A. Franklin entered one Chester County boar, and received the first premium of $4. There were 41 in number, of a very excellent breed. Would refer to report of Committee for comments on their qualities.

Of poultry, there were some very choice imported fowls. The best collection was by James Thompson, consisting of 10 Brahmas, 8 Creves, 4 Houdens, and 7 Grey Dorkings. He was awarded the first premium, $3. Next best collection, R. E. Burgess, second premium of $2, for a fine flock of 7 Brahmas. Third best collection, Lewis H. Wendel, a lot of French fowl, received the third premium, $1. Henry Mooers, 8 Caffre chickens, received gratuity of $1. Levi S. Coffin, best lot of 6 turkeys, first premium, $3; best lot of 6 ducks, first premium, $2. George Robinson, best lot of 12 ducks, second premium, $1. Levi S. Coffin, one lot full blooded China geese, first premium, $3. John O'Connell, 6 China and 7 native geese, second premium, $2. These classes of fowls were very valuable; far superior poultry to the former native hens, ducks and geese.

At 2 P. M., according to the programme, the exhibition of plowing came off, and attracted much attention from the large audience present. Four entries were made, viz.: George Robinson, with oxen, R. E Burgess, F. H. Folger and John Gardner, with horses. Richard E. Burgess was entitled to and received the first premium of $6; George Robinson, the second premium of $5; and F. H. Folger and John Gardner, a gratuity of $1 each. The plowing was done in an excellent manner, and the Committee complimented the plowmen in a few brief but significant remarks.

Thursday the weather was a little cooler, but pleasant. A fine collection of horses and colts was on the ground. Have previously noticed them in this report. They contrasted in beauty, strength and weight, with the Nantucket colts of the same ages raised on the Island for a century prior to 1856, the date of the organization of our Society. Several of 3 years old weighed nearly 1000 pounds each; 2 years old, between 700 and 800 pounds, and yearlings, over 700 pounds each. No animal possesses more points of beauty, strength and usefulness to man than the horse, and these spirited colts promise noble steeds for future pleasure and utility to their owners.

The afternoon was devoted to equestrian and other entertainments. There were four entries: Arthur M. Folger bore off the palm for horsemanship, and received the first premium of $5; Frederick T. Worth, second premium, $4; Frederick W. Coffin, third premium, $3. Miss Julia Swain rode finely, but did not receive an award as she had previously received a premium.

There was no trial of speed of horses on the track. A foot-race came off around the track between a number of young lads, Arthur Folger running the half-mile in two and one-half minutes, winning the premium of $5, and Wallace Cartwright was five seconds behind.

There was a foot-race between eleven youngsters, for a premium of $5. Eleven pails were placed a row with apples; as many more empty ones opposite; the feat was to run forty feet and transfer the apples from one pail to the other. John P. Tilton won the premium of $5, and was declared to be the champion of the race. There was a large gathering of spectators, and they were enlivened during the Fair days by the exhilarating music of the Brass Band.

At the grounds there has been constructed a cistern, which holds eighty barrels of water, with a pump which will supply water for cattle and for drinking purposes, to all who may hereafter wish it.

AT THE HALL.

The Exhibition was opened by Vice-President William H. Waitt, in the absence of the President, Dr. Augustus Franklin, who was sick and unable to attend. Mr. Waitt offered a few remarks upon the object of the Society and the success of the Fair. The audience were then entertained by a variety of songs and music from the Nantucket Glee Club, consisting of Messrs. A. T. Allen, J. W. Hallett, B. G. Tobey, Mrs. J. W. Hallett, Mrs. S. L. Eldridge, and the Misses Mary Abbie Hallett, Margaret Cook and Mary J. Chase.

Rev. Mr. Strong of California was introduced. He complimented the appearance of the Hall, Fruit, Fancy Work, &c; spoke of our large vegetables; related some California incidents of mammoth vegetables and trees, and want of true women for that State, and recommended shipments from Nantucket, &c. His remarks were very interesting.

James M. Bunker, Esq. addressed the audience by some very excellent suggestions. He compared our exhibition with others, and generally complimented the Fair, and the enterprise and intelligence of the people in sustaining the Fair and Exhibition.

Rev. Thomas Dawes made a happy speech complimentary to the ladies for their taste and labor in decorating the room and the arrangements; spoke highly of the display of vegetables, &c. His remarks were well received.

The appearance of the Hall was praiseworthy in the highest degree. The arrangement of bunting from the chandelier to frame work, had a beautiful effect, the red, white and blue blending very prettily. A fine centre-piece of flowers on the centre stand, in basket form, with a trellis-work handle of green and flowers, attracted much attention.

There was a basket designed by Mrs. George Star-

buck from choice flowers, contributions of eleven others, which was very charming.

Very fine oil paintings were exhibited by Mr. Thomas J. Herring; also, a number of pictures in English water colors were on exhibition by Miss Lizzie Coggeshall.

Mrs. William W. Wood exhibited a miniature cattle-show in a glass case; it was composed of a variety of animals, and attracted much attention for the great labor and ingenuity displayed.

Not as much fancy work as on former years, but very exquisite specimens were displayed. For description, must refer to the very excellent report of Committee.

The Fruit was very limited, as the season for growth had been unfavorable. The specimens were as luscious and tempting as at any Fair. Please see elaborate report of Committee for full description.

Around the Hall were the following appropriate mottoes: Over the rostrum—"Welcome to our Harvest Home;" at the South—"Author of blessings, we hail Thee, the beneficent Giver;" at the East—"Ocean and Earth their treasures yield, when labor occupies the field;" at the West—"Mother Earth, our Alma Mater."

The Vegetables were excellent and the display was very large; the room was filled with choice specimens.

Of Butter, there was a larger number of entries than usual Refer to reports of Committees on these subjects for details, awards, &c.

Some excellent specimens of Hosiery and Mittens were exhibited by James Thompson; also, a fine harness cask, from the manufactory of Charles E. Allen—an excellent specimen of work. Home manufactured brooms and a number of manufactured fancy articles. See report of Committee.

An excellent cheese was on exhibition by Mr. Charles C. Folger.

The ladies and gentlemen deserve much credit for their taste and labors in the decorations and arrange-

ments of the Hall. Many thanks are due to those who contributed to the display of articles in the Hall, and to those who patronized the Fair and Exhibition. The exercises at the Hall closed at 10, P. M., on Thursday, at which time the Ball was opened at the Atlantic Hall, under the superintendence of Messrs. Gibbs and Alley. The company was smaller than on former years, there being a less number of excursionists from abroad, but the scene was enlivening, the music was exhilarating, being rendered by the renowned Quadrille Band of Messrs. Smith & Hawes' Brass Band. All who participated in the mazy dance were much pleased with the entertainment, and retired wishing many a happy return of the Fair, Exhibition and Ball. With the exception of the disarrangement of the excursion and the consequent diminution of the usual number of guests from abroad, our Fair was an entire success.

ALEXANDER MACY, JR., *Secretary.*

REPORTS.

Plowing.

The Committee on Plowing, respectfully represent that the competitors were George Robinson, Richard E. Burgess, Franklin H. Folger and Master John Gardner. We award to Mr. R. E. Burgess, the first premium, $4, for doing his work in the most workmanlike manner, and in the shortest time. We award the veteran plowman, Robinson, the second premium, of $3. We wish also to say that the work of Mr. Folger and John Gardner was very well done, and we recommend that the remaining premium be equally divided between them. We would also compliment Master Gardner, by saying that his work gave evidence for one so young, of his having travelled a good many miles in that vocation.

JOHN WINN,
CHARLES SWAIN,
DAVID W. BURGESS,
} Committee.

Vegetables.

Your Committee found a very nice show of most excellent Vegetables, the best we ever saw.

Lot No. 1, grown by Mr. William Nixon, we award a gratuity of $2.

Lot No 2, grown by Mr James Thompson, contained marrow squashes, crookneck do., five kinds of potatoes, all good, several kinds of corn, and some very fine Norway oats. To him we award the second premium of $4.

Lot No. 3, very fine, large corn, from Coscata, grown by Capt. William Chadwick, we award a gratuity of 50 cents.

Lot No. 4, fine onions, good corn, and a box of good sound wheat, grown by William O'Connell, we award a gratuity of 50 cents.

Lot No. 4, from Mr Joseph M. Folger, a good lot, among which we mention good corn, very good potatoes, turnips, beets, Hubbard squashes, and good native pumpkins. To Mr. Folger we award the third premium of $3.

Lot No. 6, from Mr. George H. Gardner—a fine lot—we mention good cabbages and cauliflowers, good Jackson white potatoes, nice Cuzco potatoes, and very fine beets. To Mr. Gardner we award a gratuity of $3.

Lot No. 7, Capt. Samuel B. Swain, from 'Sconset, pumpkins, beets and corn; gratuity 50 cents.

Lot No. 8, from 'Sconset, grown by Mr. Pauls, samples of corn which the owner thought might produce 130 bushels to the acre; a gratuity of 50 cents.

Lot No. 9, from Mr. Charles W. Gardner, we award $3. This was a good lot. We mention very nice potatoes, good beets, and some broom corn.

Lot No. 10, from Mr. Charles Folger, twelve fine pumpkins, good garnet potatoes, and a sample of good heavy oats, we award $1.

Lot No. 11, from Mr. William Bartlett, good potatoes, nice onions, also good samples of rye, barley and oats, with good Hubbard squashes and very nice Jackson potatoes; we award to Mr. Bartlett, $2.

Lot No. 12, from James T. Worth, nice sugar beets, 25 cents.

Lot No. 14, from Mr. Frederick C. Sanford, very large California squashes, two weighing fifty-six pounds each; also twelve very nice native pumpkins. This being the best lot of squashes, we award Mr. Sanford $2.

Lot No. 16, from Mr. Charles A. Burgess, was the best lot of vegetables at the Fair. We have never seen a better assortment. Among this lot we mention very good potatoes of four several kinds; very nice squashes —the Hubbard—never better could be grown; good corn and oats, and we award to Mr. Burgess the first premium of $5.

Lot No. 17, from Mr. Edward F. Easton, good garnet potatoes, good beets and turnips, we award $1.

Lot No. 18, from Mr. Charles G. S. Austin—a good lot. We notice good corn, good beets, nice Hubbard squashes, and three kinds of good potatoes, for which we award $2.

Lot No. 19, from Mr. Asa P. Jones, one basket of Italian turnips, planted July 25th, and of good size; also, some good carrots, for which we award 50 cents.

Lot No. 20, very large crookneck squashes, from Mr. William S. Whippey, for which we award 50 cents.

Lot No. 21, from Mr. James H. Cary, good beans, parsnips and beets, we award $1.

Lot No. 22, from Mr. William Warren; nice corn, good parsnips, a sample of wheat, good pumpkins, good Hubbard squashes, and very nice potatoes, for which we award $2.

Lot No. 23, from Mr. Robert Ratliff, very good parsnips, we award 50 cents.

Lot No. 24, from Mr. Edward Hammond, five different kinds of potatoes, all very good, nice Hubbard squashes, good native pumpkins, a sample of good oats, for which we award to Mr. Hammond, $1.50.

Lot No. 25, from Capt. Matthew Crosby, good native pumpkins, good marrow squashes, and a sample of good corn, we award 50 cents.

Lot No. 26, from Capt. Manuel Enas, basket of Jack-

son White potatoes, and basket of pink-eyed potatoes, we award $1.

Lot No. 27, from Mr. William C. Swain, good marrow squashes and good parsnips, 50 cents.

Perry Winslow, one rabbit, 25 cents.

Your Committee will not close this report, without again expressing their delight at seeing such a mass of good things, all samples of what our Island produces; and we, under all this, must ask for more. We feel certain that good crops of many things that grow finely here may be made to sell with good profit. Our turnips are unrivalled for sweetness; our native pumpkins can't be beat: and the Hubbard squashes are delicious; this last article keeps well and brings a good price in Boston; our corn always makes a good crop when the land is well manured. And we wish all our farmers to see the advantage of high culture. This always pays; and here on our Island it must pay, where we have to pay very high for labor. Every acre ploughed should be made to grow two good crops, from its being well manured. Each crop will cost but a little more for labor than half a crop or, less will cost: and then after growing two good crops, manure it well again, sow it down to grain and grass, and the hay, the life of the farm, will come, and then again the feed: this, with butter at fifty cents per pound, must make the heart glad. High farming is always the most profitable, and with us, decidedly so. We are doing better in this respect from year to year. We grow much more hay than we used to, and more and much better vegetables. Any one who will look back a few years, will see our potatoes very small back there, and very few in the hill. This year they were of very good size, and a good crop.

For the Committee.

JOHN H. SHAW.

Fruit.

To the Executive Board of the Nantucket Agricultural Society:

GENTLEMEN: Your Committee on Fruit, having attended to the duty assigned them, would respectfully report:

That the quantity and variety of Fruit offered at the exhibition for this year, contrasted as a *whole*, unfavorably with the productions of former years. The unpropitious season is the cause of this deficiency; the fault does not belong to the cultivators. The specimens which *were* offered, abundantly prove that care and skill have not been wanting. We must regret, however, that the competitors for our premiums have not placed in our hands some written statement of the important facts belonging to each case. It is true that no demand of this kind was made; and we respectfully suggest to the managers of the Fair whether such a demand should not be made hereafter. The awards of your Committee might be more discriminating, at least more just and equitable, if they were informed of the process by which success in fruit culture was reached. The public, too, would be benefitted by the useful information thus afforded, and opportunity would be given to gather wisdom from another's experience. As the case now stands, we assign our prizes to the bringer of the best specimen, but we are unable to state how much, or what kind of skill and care were bestowed on the plant which produced the fruit. The object of your Society is thus partially defeated, and your awards accomplish only a small portion of their designed purpose. The hints which we consider it our duty to offer, likewise, cannot be drawn so directly from our own farmers' experience as they might have been, had your Committee been furnished with the means. But in order that your purpose may not be wholly lost in calling for our report, we shall venture on a few suggestions that relate to the

kinds of fruit which were put on exhibition. We begin with that useful, most ancient, respectable and enduring fruit,

THE APPLE.

If the number of specimens offered must be taken as any test, then we must regret the infelicity of the season, or the lack of interest among the cultivators of this fruit. The contribution brought by Samuel King, was the largest and the best. It consisted of nine varieties; and we award to him the first premium of $3. Mr. King deserves credit for what he has done with his Lilliputian apple orchard. A man of four feet in stature would feel like a giant when he walked among those fertile trees, which Mr. King has headed down, and thus protected from our atrocious winds. The trees do duty as parasols to the poultry; and the fowls, acting on the plan that one good turn deserves another, busy themselves with kindly offices to their umbrageous trees. The orchard, in other words, stands in a large hen-yard, and worms have but small opportunity to devour. The trunks of these trees were cut within three feet of the ground; the branches put out laterally from that elevation. Yet these dwarf specimens were, for the unfavorable season, fairly productive; and, when we saw them, gave promise of that harvest which appeared by representatives at our exhibition. Mr. King's success proves that apples can be raised on our windy lands, and that judicious care will reward the cultivator. The nearer the branches are to the ground, the surer is the crop. Our neighbors at Martha's Vineyard have reported that at least eighty varieties of the apple are raised by their farmers; they find that a soil which is a sandy loam, with the sub-soil light and sandy, is favorable for this tree. Such soil needs to be enriched with stable manure, some five cords per acre, put on every other year, and the trees kept clear of caterpillars, canker worms, and other vermin. A successful raiser of this

fruit in Middlesex County, speaks enthusiastically of mulching his trees. Report says—"All his trees that had fruit were mulched with meadow hay, thus keeping the ground moist by preventing evaporation, keeping the weeds down, and saving the dropping fruit from harm." So valuable did he think this, that he would do it "if the hay should cost forty dollars a ton."

All superfluous limbs and suckers are to be skilfully pruned away: the trunks should be thoroughly scraped with a hoe, and then washed with strong soap-suds. After such process, a farmer who has tried it tells us, that "the bark becomes smooth and glossy, and is no longer the home of insects, but performs its designated office. If the soap is applied so freely as to run down among the roots, it will not be lost. It is one of the best stimulants that can be given to the roots. The latter part of May or first of June is the best season for its application." Dried leaves have been found, as well as wood ashes, to contain most of the ingredients which apple trees require. A compost made of one part ashes and three parts muck, answers an excellent purpose. Perfectly dried leaves, moreover, prove to be the best material for packing apples, when the aim is to keep the fruit for any length of time. "Apple trees," says the State Agricultural Report, "need examining at least once a year to cut out unnecessary branches, thereby preventing the top from becoming an unsightly jungle of brush. Let a saw be used instead of an axe in trimming: cutting off the branch smoothly that the wound may soon heal. We consider any season of the year better for pruning than March or April—the time when it is most commonly done, at which time the sap flows freely from the wound which is made, to the great injury of the tree." We subjoin a list of the kinds of apple trees which have been found valuable for soils kindred with our own:

For Summer—Early Harvest, Red Astrachan and Golden Sweet.

For Fall—Porter and Gravenstein.

For Winter—Hubbardston Nonsuch, Rhode Island Greening, Baldwin and Roxbury Russet.

We award to Isaiah Folger, for a dish of very handsome Porter apples, a gratuity of $1.

To Lewis H. Wendel, for very handsome Snow apples, a gratuity of $1, and to Mrs. Lewis H. Wendel, for some promising apples raised from seed, a gratuity of seventy-five cents.

We turn now to

GRAPES,

In the culture of which fruit our people appear to be already much interested. Perhaps the name of our neighboring Island has served for an encouragement. People who live so near to the Vineyard proper, may have grown bolder with hope that the raising of grapes was possible for them.

The cold and stormy winter, which brought in the wet and reluctant spring, followed by the brief summer, will account for the meagre show this year of out-door grapes at our exhibition. Indeed, your Committee found none, that *as a collection*, could be considered worthy of any premium.

For the best single dish, however, we award to Joseph B. Macy, for his very handsome dish of Hartford Prolific, a premium of $1.

To James Thompson, for a dish of very fine Allen's Hybrid, we award a premium of $1.

The exhibition of house grapes was worthy of praise. Those luscious and beautiful clusters which were offered by James Thompson and E. H. Alley attracted admiring attention. We considered the collection brought by James Thompson to be worthy of the highest premium of $5; and the creditable contribution made by E. H. Alley, to merit the second of $3, and we award these prizes accordingly.

Our people already seem to be aware that the soil of

Nantucket is suited for the grape, and that its climate is not unfavorable, provided the vine be properly protected from severe winds. A vineyard should have a dry, warm soil, in a location not liable to frost. The slope of some hill with a southern exposure, even though it be in danger of drought, is appropriate. The vine will grow in sand and endure dry weather better than most plants. It loves the warm sun, and will hold its green foliage in great heat. That the vine must have, in order to thrive, in all cases, a marvellously rich soil, and one whose fertility has been enforced with quantities of costly dressing, has been proved to be the blunder of ignoramuses. The danger is in making the soil *too rich*. A successful cultivator insists that "trenching and heavy manuring are not only unnecessary, but actually injurious; a soil cultivated to a sufficient depth, and made sufficiently rich for producing *a good crop of corn*, is deep enough and rich enough for grapes." Then, too, mistakes have been made in excessive pruning of the vine. "A little wise neglect is better than a too frequent or too severe application of the knife." The horticulturist must note the different habits of the different kinds of grape, and adapt himself and his treatment to the manner of growth. Some vines are slow growing; these must be pruned in great moderation in order to get hardy and ripened wood, while other vines, which are rapid growers, require a different treatment. The method must be suited to circumstances, and no general rule can be given for all cases. The opinion now prevails that "this eternal pinching and nipping and cutting and slashing," has been a detriment and had better be modified. The rampant growing vines need thinning out and their number of bunches reduced from one-half to three-quarters. We cannot resist the temptation to quote at large from the last Agricultural State Report, some pertinent advice for the advantage of those who may not have seen it:

"The common opinion is," says a practical fruit culti-

vator, "that people cannot raise fruit under glass without great cost and care. I think that is a mistake. I do not think there is a farmer who has the skill to manage ordinary carpenter's tools, who cannot put up a structure in which to raise Black Hamburgs at very little cost. The common expense has been ten dollars a running foot. There is no need of it. Go to work and lay out your ground; set standard posts that will be lasting; put in your sills and build your building with common unplaned boards; let them come together without matching, but close as they will in the state in which they come from the mill. Then you may nail laths across these boards, which will prevent currents of air from passing through. You have then got your outside. Now put on your roofing. There is no necessity that it should all be glass; the lower part may be all boarded. In that case, you would insert pretty large panes, which would be just as cheap in the long run, unless you broke one. There you have your building, which will answer all the purposes of a cold grapery. I think you can raise your Black Hamburgs there profusely, and scarcely ever fail of a crop, when you would be likely to fail in in-door culture. Why not try it? There is no better grape, take it all in all, than the Black Hamburg. The only drawback is in thinning it. When the berries are about the size of pease, then you must thin it, or you will utterly fail in your object. It is futile to think of getting a crop unless you thin it; say, if there are five berries, take out three. That is the only difficult operation in the whole thing. It requires a slender pair of tweezers, because the bunches ought not to be bruised in the slightest degree. When you have done that, water your plants until about the first of June, and that is about all the work there is to be done. When it gets to be about the first of November, and the leaves are falling from the vine, then trim them, which is a simple thing. Cut off close the stems which bore fruit this year, and leave every other.

Then paint them over with a paint made of soap and sulphur, lay them down, and cover them up with pine boughs. In that way you raise the best grapes in the country, at very little expense. You can raise peaches and grapes, if you will only assist Nature a little in her efforts."

We find it elsewhere remarked that "in certain vineyards in France and Italy the vines are kept in the highest condition, by simply burying at their roots, every leaf and branch that is pruned off or falls from the vines at the close of the season." These fallen leaves and twigs contain precisely the nutriment which the vine needs for its renewed growth; chemists have found that the exact proportions of the earthy salts, lime and potash, are furnished by these relics which the parent plant requires. "Still in their ashes live their wonted fires." The attempt to raise pine trees on our Island will utterly fail, if the practise be allowed much longer of gathering up the needles which fall from the branches, and which Nature intended to nourish the tree, and keep the frost from its roots during the severity of the winter season. Some of our pine trees are pining away and ready to perish, because they have not been let alone in their attempts to protect themselves against our frosts. This may be a departure from our legitimate duty, und we turn to consider the

PEACHES

which were offered at the exhibition. For this beautiful fruit, which seems to be growing more scarce in New England every year, your Committee were not authorized to award any premium. Perhaps the friends to fruit culture think it advisable to discourage any attempt at raising so tender a plant as the peach tree is, on our ungenial soil. But some of our fruit growers have made the attempt, without the inducement offered by the hope of a prize; and we are able to report at least three successful efforts. Mrs. William B. Mitchell

furnished a dish of peaches which would have been more attractive at a later season, for they had not sufficiently ripened, but were fully formed and gave promise of becoming blushing peaches. A dish was offered by E. H. Alley, which merits notice. The dish brought by Samuel King made the mouth water, and we award to him a gratuity of $1. The tree on which this fruit grew is budded into the root of a plum tree, and the branches are trained against the south side of a woodshed, so as to have the full benefit of the sun. The severe storms of Nantucket winter and the cruel winds of our cold season, are harmful to the tender tree. None needs more careful protection than the peach, but it seems, with all its tenderness, to repay any care it receives from its protector. Thus one of your officers is reported to have said at a meeting of the State Board of Agriculture, "In the garden of the house next to mine, a peach tree came up, close to the house, blossomed and bore fruit once, and never bore any more. The old lady who is there alone in the house, shut a blind back against one of the branches, and it grew up behind the blind. It was not disturbed until the first of October, and then, when she shut the blind, that branch was found to be literally loaded with ripe fruit, as big as my fist, and delicious in quality. There was not a peach to be seen on any other part of the tree." The root of the peach tree appears to need the most protection, for the top has been found able to endure more degrees of cold than the root can. Mr. King's experiment of enlisting in the tree's behalf the hardier root of the plum, has admirably succeeded. His peaches are worthy of all praise. In some places, the experiment of planting peach trees in pots or tubs has prospered, and we copy the description of that process from the Agricultural Report: "Plant trees in pots or tubs, say twelve inches broad and deep, with an orifice in the bottom at least three inches in diameter. Set them in a part of the garden which has a good exposure to the

sun, six inches deep in the ground. The soil should be well prepared and the trees occasionally watered with liquid manure. Take up the pots about the middle of November, cutting off the roots which have pierced through the orifice, and set them in a place in the cellar of pretty uniform temperature, where they are to remain until it is time to set them out in the spring. Trees treated in this manner are said to bear well; and fifty handsome peaches have been taken from a single one." When we learn that the fairest peaches have been sold in Boston market for two and even three dollars apiece, the question of the profitableness of peach raising appears to be settled, and its answer is obvious.

PEARS.

The exhibition of Pears was especially gratifying; serving to show how great must be the interest already excited in the culture of this delicious fruit on our Island, and how largely successful our farmers have been in their attempts to raise it. We are glad that the suggestion of our predecessors in office has been adopted; but the inequality in the premiums might be still more equitably adjusted. One dollar is still awarded to a single dish, and yet the second premium of not less than ten varieties of eight specimens each, can receive but three dollars. We do the best which our limited means allow. Samuel King had nineteen varieties, and, considering this to be the best collection, your committee award to him the first premium of $5.

Henry Coffin furnished ten varieties, but as the number of some of the specimens did not answer to the requirement, we award to him, not the second premium, but a gratuity of $2.

To James Thompson, who offered twelve varieties, we assign, for a similar reason, a gratuity of $1.

To E. H. Alley, who had seven varieties, is awarded a gratuity of $1.

To F. C. Sanford, for his generous and very tempting

dish of best Bartletts, we assign the first premium of $1. To the same gentleman, for the best single dish of Flemish Beauties, we give the premium of $1.

To Samuel B. Swain, for the best single dish of Seckel pears, we give the premium of $1.

To George W. Macy, for the best dish of Beurre d'Amalis, is awarded the premium of $1.

To D. C. Baxter, for a handsome dish of Bartletts, is granted a gratuity of 50 cents.

To Samuel C. Wyer, for a dish of Flemish Beauties, is given a gratuity of 50 cents.

To E. H. Alley, for the best dish of Buffum pears, is awarded the premium of $1.

To George Coleman, for his fertile single branch, covered thick with sugar pears, we grant a gratuity of 25 cents.

QUINCES.

The show of Quinces did not do justice to the well established former reputation of Nantucket for this excellent fruit. It was once admitted that our salt air and the soil of this island were favorable to the growth and perfection of the quince. This year only four contributors came with specimens; their names deserve to be mentioned; Mrs. S. B. Swain, E. H. Alley, Mrs. Thomas B. Field, and David C. Baxter, each of whom brought a single dish. To the first and the last-named, that is, to Mrs. Swain, and to D. C. Baxter, we give a gratuity of 50 cents each.

Faith in the profitableness of the quince appears to be lessening on our island, for some of our most successful fruit producers are planning to use their quince trees merely as stocks to graft other fruits upon. We believe this will prove to be a mistaken calculation. Our soil is of the right kind for this fruit, and our climate is adapted to its production. An exporter of the quince from our neighboring island has made the estimate that three thousand dollars' worth were sold from Martha's Vineyard

only a year ago, and he reports that some of the best specimens brought twelve dollars a barrel. The tree might be easily cultivated, and at such prices our farmers would find it remunerative. The best varieties, and those adapted to our climate and soil, are found to be the orange quince, the Connecticut and apple quince, and the pear quince. We would suggest that a premium be offered, to remedy the growing neglect in the cultivation of this fruit.

CRANBERRIES.

If it be true, as many experiments go to prove, that the presence of peat in considerable quantities conduces to the perfection of cranberries, then our island is the place to raise them. The late exhibition furnished only a few specimens. Perhaps the culture of them requires so little care, and kindly nature herself produces the fruit so abundantly, that our farmers do not think it worth while to offer them for inspection; they may count such wild growth of their swamps and meadows to be undeserving either praise or blame. However this may be, we venture to award a gratuity of fifty cents to each of the contributors, viz: George Easton, Henry Coffin, Charles H. Starbuck and William R. Easton.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Our report has grown under our hand to such length, that we have space merely to notice in the briefest way, the following awards:

To Mrs. Alexander Macy, Jr., who had on exhibition a glass dish of very handsome pear tomatoes, a gratuity of 25 cents.

To E. H. Alley, for his handsome specimen of tomatoes and Lawton Blackberries, a gratuity of 25 cents.

To Edward Hammond, for good specimens of tomatoes, a gratuity of 25 cents.

To Henry Coffin, for four large watermelons, a gratuity of 25 cents.

To Charles Folger, for a lot of eight watermelons and six good muskmelons, a gratuity of 50 cents.

To Charles W. Gardner, for a basket of muskmelons, we give a gratuity of 25 cents.

To George H. Gardner, for gherkins and cranberries, we give a gratuity of 75 cents.

To William Bartlett, for four watermelons, four muskmelons, one box of hops, and one basket of cranberries, we give a gratuity of $1.

For the Committee,

THOMAS DAWES.

Flowers.

The practical man, according to his own definition, is one who eliminates from life the beauties and graces, and devotes all his energies to the acquisition of wealth. A magnificent forest is attractive, because it may be converted into ship timber; Niagara awakens admiration, because it could be forced to turn countless spindles. Silver moons, however, possessing no immediate or prospective cash value, are held in light esteem. Clouds and sunsets, since they are not quoted on exchange, are prized as little as the changing winds. To all such, flowers are but weeds that rob cabbages and onions of their proper nutriment.

Perhaps these practical gentlemen would be surprised to ascertain the extent of the traffic in seeds, plants and flowers throughout the United States; the sales of flowers alone amounting to more than $3,000,000 annually. A business which affords employment to so many laborers, increases the revenues, and swells the wealth of the nation, must be practical enough to merit the most searching scrutiny of moneyed men.

Agriculture, horticulture, and floriculture, moreover, possess so much in common, that any improvement in the one must have a reflex action upon the other.

But the cultivation of flowers should be fostered for

more cogent reasons than any present pecuniary gain. In a household, the influence of these mute teachers cannot be over-estimated. No family can afford to neglect so important a source of pleasure and instruction.

In a higher degree than painting or statuary, they educate the eye to an appreciation of color and form, for their matchless tints, like those of the rainbow, defy reproduction on canvas; while their ever-varying gracefulness finds no adequate expression in marble.

They not merely create and minister to refined tastes, but even develop the nobler elements of character. Any task, aside from regular business, when voluntarily undertaken, constantly opens new sources of pleasure. The care of a single plant throughout the winter, exerts a potent influence for good. Dependent for life upon daily care, it withers when neglected, it buds and blossoms when tenderly cared for. It makes demands and calls for sacrifices. Its possessor must become more considerate and kind. No thoroughly selfish man can sincerely love flowers.

Accessible to all, let them blossom in our gardens during the summer, and adorn our residences through the winter, that their unspoken benediction may abide with us always.

The display this year was exceedingly creditable to the contributors, both with respect to the number of species exhibited, and their tasteful arrangement. The decorations were also especially praiseworthy, with which may be noticed an elegant harp, by Miss Eliza M. Myrick, and a mammoth basket of flowers, by Mrs. George Starbuck.

It seems to the committee that some modification of, or addition to the premium list might advantageously be made for the ensuing year, to encourage the cultivation of as many varieties of each species as possible, and also to promote experiments with wild flowers. Some of our most beautiful exotics are insignificant in their native state, and owe their present excellence to systematic

culture. The flora of Nantucket is quite extensive, embracing many plants which are really deserving a place in our gardens, and might be improved to an indefinite extent. In connection with this subject we cannot too heartily recommend the study of Botany, without a knowledge of which, gained either from experience or study, all original experiments are likely to result in deplorable failure. Let every florist strive at least to improve the species now common, and the premium for the best single flower would scarce remain unclaimed. To cultivate flowers for their own sweet sake, is commendable; to produce a single new variety is a national gain.

The Committee award the premiums as follows:—

To Miss Mary S. Coffin, for the best and largest collection of flowers, the first premium, $3.00.

To Mrs. E. H. Alley, the second premium, $2.00.

To Mrs. George W. Macy, the third premium, $1.00.

To Mrs. L. H. Wendel, for the best collection of house plants, the first premium, $3.00.

To Mrs. J. B. King, for the best show of cut flowers, the first premium, $3.00.

To Miss Mary Eliza Macy, the second premium, of $1.50.

To Mrs. S. B. Swain, for a cluster of Noisette roses, a gratuity of $1.00.

To Miss Ann Lizzie Gardner, for a display of dahlias, a gratuity of $1.00.

To Mrs. Wm. B. Mitchell, and Mrs. Allen Smith, for various plants, and to Mrs. C. H. Starbuck, for cut flowers, gratuities of 75 cents each.

LORIN L. DAME,
S. D. HOSMER,
JOSIAH FOLGER,
} Committee.

Stallions, Mares and Colts.

Premium for the best stallion :

John J. Backus, for the best stallion, the first premium, $25.00.

For mares with colts by their side :

For the best mare and colt, Joseph Vincent, first premium, $6.00 ; Augustus Franklin, second do., $5.00 ; Levi S. Coffin, third do., $4.00 ; Edward Hammond, fourth do., $3.

For the best four year old colt, James Thompson, first premium, $5.00.

For the best three year old colts, William H. Smith, first premium, $5.00 ; William R. Easton, second premium, $4.00 ; Thomas Gibbs, third premium, $3.00.

For the best two year old colts, Charles Starbuck, first premium, $4.00 ; Albert Bartlett, second do., $3.00 ; Edward Hammond, third do., $2.00.

For the best one year old colt, James Thompson, first premium, $4.00 ; William R. Perkins, second do., $3.00 ; Joseph M. Folger, third do., $2.

For the best sucking colts, Augustus Franklin, first premium, $3.00 ; Joseph Vincent, second do., $2.00.

For the Committee,

JOSEPH MARSHALL.

Family, Draught, Trotting and Walking Horses.

The Committee on Family, Draught, Trotting and Walking Horses, make the following report : There were ten entries of Family Horses, as follows : Augustus Franklin, John M. Bovey, Benj. F. Wyer, Richard E. Burgess, Chas. G. S. Austin, Arnold Morse, Charles Swain, William Nixon, Andrew G. Hussey and Edward Hammond. The premiums were awarded as follows :

To Richard E. Burgess, the first premium, $8 ; Augustus Franklin, the second do., $6 ; John M. Bovey, the third do., $4 ; William Nixon, the fourth do., $2.

Of Draught Horses, there were three entries; one by Franklin Worth, one by Richard E. Burgess, and a pair by Richard E. Burgess. The following awards were made:

To Richard E. Burgess, the first premium, $5; Franklin Worth, second do., $3.

To Richard E. Burgess, for the best pair, the first premium, $6.

Of Walking Horses there were three entries; one by Charles G. Austin, one by Andrew G. Hussey, and one by Arnold Morse, neither of which walked fast enough to be entitled to a premium.

CHARLES W. GARDNER,
ASA P. JONES,
LEVI S. COFFIN,
} Committee.

Equestrian Performances.

Your Committee on Equestrian Performances, would submit the following report: There were four entries, viz., Frederick T. Worth, Arthur M. Folger, Frederick W. Coffin, and Miss Julia Swain. The Committee have awarded as follows:

To Arthur M. Folger, the first premium, $5; Frederick T. Worth, second do., $4; Frederick W. Coffin, third do., $3

All of which is respectfully submitted.

For the Committee,
CHARLES H. JAGGAR.

Thorough-Bred Stock.

To the Nantucket Agricultural Society:—

Your Committee on Thorough-bred Stock, in their judgment, award the following premiums, viz:

We award James Thompson, for the best herd of five Jerseys, the first premium of $10; for the best cow, "Lady May," the first premium, of $5; for the second best

cow, "Daisy," the second premium, of $4; for the best two year old, in milk, "Gipsey,' the first premium, $4.

To Dr. A. Franklin, for the second best two year old, in milk, "Hattie," the second premium, $3.

To Alfred Swain, for the best two year old heifer, "Violet," the first premium, $3.

To Matthew Macy, for the second best two year old, "Beauty," the second premium, $2.

To James Thompson, for the best one year old heifer, "Sylvia," the first premium, $2.

To Edward Hammond, for the second best one year old, "Josephine," the second premium, $1.

To Edward M. Gardner, for the best calf, the first premium, $1.

To Levi S. Coffin, for the second best calf, the second premium, 50 cents.

To Charles C. Folger, for the best Ayrshire cow, "Rosa, 3d," the first premium, $5.

To Manuel Enas, for the best two years old heifer, "Beauty," the first premium, $3.

To Charles C. Folger, for the second best one year old, "Lady McDonald," the second premium, $2.

For the best one year old, "Lily," the first premium, $2.

To Manuel Enas, for the best calf, "Flora," the first premium, $1.

To Charles C. Folger, for the second best, "Flora," the second premium, 50 cents.

Dr. A. Franklin exhibited a Jersey cow, "Princess," six years old.

F. C. Sanford exhibited "Beauty," ten years old, "Cleopatra," seven years old, and "Young Beauty," two years and three months old,—fine Jersey stock.

Levi S. Coffin exhibited two heifers, three years old, and a calf—fine stock.

William R. Easton exhibited "Rosa Bonheur," three years old—a fine animal.

James Thompson also exhibited "Jenny Lind," thir-

teen years old, "Primrose," six years old, "Pansy," five years old, "Bright Eyes," five years old, "Pearl," three years old, "Pink," two years old, "Twilight," thirteen months old,—a very fine collection of Jersey stock.

Manuel Enas exhibited one Ayrshire cow, "Bessie," five years old, one Jersey heifer, three years old, and one calf—fine animals.

Your Committee most heartily congratulate the farmers and others interested in the exhibition of stock, on the improvement in the past ten years. From the information we can gather, it will compare well in quality with other exhibitions abroad, and we most earnestly urge upon you to still further improve your stock, for there is a market for it abroad.

For the Committee.

EDWARD F. EASTON.

Grades and Natives.

To the Nantucket Agricultural Society: –

Your Committee on Grades and Natives are pleased to report an unprecedented show in this department of the exhibition. The number of stock entered was eighty head, or exactly double the number shown last year, and a number exceeding the entries of any preceding year of the Society's existence. It must certainly have been refreshing to those whose minds have been troubled by predictions of the waning prosperity of our Agricultural Society, to look upon the long lines of noble, well-fed cattle as they filed in, and arranged themselves along the stanchions until every vacant space was occupied,—and still they came. It must have been evident to the eye of the most casual observer that a spirit of emulation and improvement is rife among the farmers of our county.

Leaving the consideration of the fine display of thoroughbred stock to the committee on that subject, we

will draw the attention of the society to the portion immediately under our observation.

In using the terms Thorough-breds, Grades, and Natives they can only be understood to express relative degrees of improvement by breeding and rearing, upon stock which has been perpetuated at random. The term "native" is, of course, in this country, an anomalous expression; since the nearest approach to native cattle on the American Continent is the bison of our western prairies. The idea which is expressed by the term could be more properly rendered by the word *acclimated;* since it is by the peculiar influences of our climate, that the distinguishing features of American cattle are produced.

The word *Thorough-bred* indicates, as an analysis of it will show, an animal produced by a *thorough* course of *breeding* or attention on the part of mankind; and in using the term *Grade*, we indicate the different degrees or *grades* of approach to the maximum point of excellence.

An acclimation of over two hundred years has produced upon our Island a kind of stock possessing numerous peculiar characteristics. As a general thing, the cattle of Nantucket have not been pampered by the tenderest care, nor the richest pastures. They have been accustomed to roam over our widely-extended *commons*, which are never over-abundant with verdure, and where the exercise necessary to procure food would seem, at least, sufficient to insure a thorough digestion.

Generally speaking, the *native* cattle of Nantucket are of medium size, cleanly built, without much superfluous flesh, active, and of robust constitution, and able to subsist with a very reasonable amount of food and attention. Their milk is usually of fine flavor, and the butter produced from it is pronounced by connoisseurs to be equal to any in the United States.

Since the formation of the Nantucket Agricultural Society, the attention of our farmers has been drawn to

the improvement of their stock, principally by crossing it with Ayrshire and Alderney thorough-breds; and the distinguishing features of these two great families can now be seen plainly stamped upon scores of Nantucket cattle.

We have good advantages in Nantucket for producing an improved grade of stock; advantages somewhat resembling those of the Channel Islands of England. The near proximity of the Gulf Stream to our shores, causes our climate to approach nearer to that of Jersey, Alderney, and Guernsey, than does the climate of any other part of New England; and in point of isolation, and freedom from trouble by any intermingling of foreign stock, our advantages are fully equal to theirs.

The republican spirit of our New England farmers will probably never allow that exclusive monopoly of cattle-raising which exists in the islands of Jersey and Alderney, but it is to be hoped that a regard for the general interest of all concerned will induce them to raise the common stock of Nantucket to the highest possible grade. It is for the interest of every farmer to have his stock represent the greatest market value: and if a cow that is one-half or three-quarters Alderney or Ayrshire will sell for one-half or one-third more than a native animal, it is evident that some advantage is to be gained by raising the stock to a higher degree of improvement.

In examining the stock presented for premiums, your committee found the general order of excellence so high, that it was only by the most careful consideration and strict examination, that they could justly determine the claims of superiority. Several circumstances were presented which have never before been taken into consideration, and we feel obligated to award a few more dollars in a new class of premiums, to be subject to the approval of the society.

In addition to the herds classed as *native*, some of which were partially composed of grade stock, two

herds were entered which consisted entirely of Ayrshire grades.

To Charles W. Gardner, for his herd of eight cows, seven half-Ayrshire, we recommend a premium of six dollars, as the second best grade herd.

For the best herd of five native cows, entered by Joseph Vincent, we award the first premium of eight dollars.

For the second best herd of eight native cows, by R. E. and D. W. Burgess, the premium of six dollars.

To Manuel Enas for his herd of four natives and one thorough-bred Ayrshire, your committee would have awarded the first premium, if the place of the Ayrshire cow had been supplied by a native cow of equal excellence with the others. Under the circumstances the cows were thrown out of our jurisdiction as a herd, but for the four fine native cows we recommend a gratuity of two dollars.

To Charles C. Folger, for his herd of five native cows, we recommend a gratuity of two dollars.

To Zimri Cathcart, for his herd of five native cows, we recommend a gratuity of two dollars.

To Obed Starbuck, for his herd of six native and two grade cows, we recommend a gratuity of two dollars.

It is the opinion of your committee that the entry of herds should be specially encouraged, as it affords a much more favorable opportunity of determining the average merit of the cattle raised in the county, than does a mere show of selected single animals. It appears to us to indicate a much higher degree of merit to have a whole herd in fine condition, than to show a single specimen possessing a high degree of excellence.

For the best single grade cow, one-half Jersey, by George H. Gardner, the first premium, $4.

For the second best grade cow, "Topsy," one-half Ayrshire, by E. Hammond, the second premium, $3.

For the best native cow, "Haza," by Charles C. Folger, the first premium, $4.

For the second best native cow (one selected from herd), by Joseph Vincent, the second premium, $3.

For the best two years old grade heifer in milk, one-half Jersey, by G. H. Gardner, the first premium, $3.

For the second best two years old grade heifer in milk, "Primrose," one-half Alderney, by Charles C. Folger, the second premium, $2.

For the best two years old grade heifer, one-half Alderney, by George Robinson, the first premium, $2.

For the second best two years old grade heifer, one-half Ayrshire, by Manuel Enas, the second premium, $1.

For the best two years old native heifer, by John O'Connell, the first premium, $2.

For the second best two years old native heifer, by George Robinson, the second premium, $1.

For the best one year old grade heifer, "Beauty," three-quarters Alderney, by Edward F. Easton, the first premium, $1.

For the one year old grade heifer, one-half Alderney, by Joseph M. Folger, we recommend a gratuity of $1.

For the best one year old native heifer, by Joseph M. Folger, the first premium, $1.

For the best grade calf, one-half Ayrshire, age five months, by Charles G. S. Austin, the first premium, $1.

For the grade calf, one-half Alderney, age ten weeks, by Thomas Spencer, we recommend a gratuity of fifty cents.

For the best native calf, by Zimri Cathcart, the first premium, $1.

In addition to the above, the following persons exhibited fine specimens of grade and native stock:—

Charles G. S. Austin, one grade cow, one-half Ayrshire, three years old

Edward F. Easton, one grade cow, "Minnie," one-half Alderney, age three years and five months. On exhibition and for sale.

George H. Gardner, three native cows.

George Robinson, three native cows.

Robert F. Gardner, one native buffalo cow.

William R. Easton, one grade two years old heifer, in milk, one-half Jersey, a very fine animal.

Edward Hammond, three grade two years old heifers: one, one-half Alderney, two, one-half Ayrshire.

Edward F. Easton, one grade yearling heifer, "Bessie," one-half Alderney.

Calvin Crocker, one yearling heifer, one-half Jersey.

John O'Connell, one native yearling heifer.

George H. Gardner, one grade calf, three-quarters Jersey, age three months.

Zimri Cathcart, one native calf, age four months.

JOSEPH M. FOLGER,
BURGESS T. SIMMONS, } Committee.

GEORGE H. CARY, *Secretary.*

Working Oxen and Steers.

To George Robinson, for the best pair Working Oxen, the first premium, $5.00.

William S. Chadwick, second best do., $4.00.

Joseph Vincent, third best do., $3.00.

To William R. Perkins, for best pair three years old Steers, first premium, $2.00.

Edward Borden, second best do., $2.00.

To Richard E. Burgess, for best pair two year old Steers, the first premium, $3.00.

John O'Connell, second do., $2.00.

To Manuel Enas, for best pair one year old Steers, the first premium, $1.00.

For the Committee,

CHARLES STARBUCK.

Fat Cattle.

Your Committee on Fat Cattle, have attended to the duty assigned them, and make the following report:—

To Charles Starbuck, for the best pair fat oxen, $3.00.

To Linus A. Hooper, for the best fat cow, $3.00.

The committee recommend a gratuity of $1.00 to D. W. & R. E. Burgess, for their pair of oxen.

For the Committee,

DAVID W. BURGESS.

Sheep and Lambs.

The Committee on Sheep and Lambs, have attended to the duty assigned them, and report as follows:

There were six entries of stock in this class; William S. Chadwick entered one Southdown ram, said to be three years old, and we award him the first premium, $8.00.

George C. Gardner entered one lot of five mixed ewes, which we thought a little the best, and award him the first premium, $4.00. For the five best lambs, we also award him the first premium of $3.00.

Joseph M. Folger entered one lot of very nice mixed ewes, and we award him the second premium, $3.00. For one lot of five lambs, very good, we award him the second premium, $2.00.

Matthew Macy entered one lot of five mixed ewes, very handsome, for which the committee recommend a gratuity of $2.00.

For the Committee,

CHARLES C. FOLGER.

Poultry.

The Committee on Poultry have decided to award the premiums as follows:—

To James Thompson, for ten Brahmas, eight Creves, four Houdens, and seven Gray Dorkings, the committee award the first premium, $3.00.

R. E. Burgess, for a lot of seven Brahmas, is awarded the second premium, $2.00.

L. H. Wendell, for a lot of very handsome French fowl, is awarded the third premium, $1.00.

Henry Mooers, for a lot of eight Caffre chickens, we would recommend a gratuity of $1.00.

Levi S. Coffin, for a lot of six turkeys, very large for the age and very fine in appearance, is awarded the first premium, $3.00.

Levi S. Coffin, for a lot of six ducks, is awarded the first premium, $2.00.

George Robinson, for a lot of twelve ducks, is awarded the second premium, $1.00.

Levi S. Coffin, for a lot of six full-blood China geese, is awarded the first premium, $3.00.

John O'Connell, for a lot of six China and seven native Geese, is awarded the second premium, $2.00.

For the Committee,

WILLIAM H. CHADWICK.

Swine.

The Committee on Swine, respectfully submit the following Report:—

They were much gratified at the very superior exhibition of this class of stock, both in the quantity and the decided improvement in the breeds of this very useful animal. Among the various kinds presented, the "Chester County" breed, first introduced here by Mr. Charles C. Folger, and followed by James Thompson, Esq. and Dr. A. Franklin, seemed to your committee to excel all others in their smooth symmetry of proportion, thrifty growth, and the ease with which they can be fattened. We think a cross of this breed with some of our fine breeds of hogs, would prove very advantageous to our farmers.

We award the following premiums:

To James Thompson, for the best Chester County sow, with ten pigs eleven weeks old, first premium,

$5.00. This was a very superior lot, and their thrifty growth shows the superiority of the breed.

To Dr. A. Franklin, for one Chester County boar, the first premium, $4.00.

To Joseph M. Folger, for the best lot of six pigs, the first premium, $4.00. This was an excellent lot, and showed marks of superior care and attention.

To Charles C. Folger, for eight half Chester County pigs, the second premium, $3.00.

To David W. Burgess, for one sow and seven pigs, the third premium, $2.00. These were also noticeable as a very fine lot of pigs.

Charles Folger entered four very superior Chester County pigs, but the number being less than was requisite to draw a premium, the committee suggest that a gratuity of $2.00, which is equal to the third premium, be allowed him.

Charles G. S. Austin had on exhibition one Chester County sow, for which the committee would propose a gratuity of $1.00.

Your committee would suggest the propriety of having a suitable pen, sheltered from the sun, for the exhibition of fatted hogs, which hitherto have not been brought to the grounds on account of the want of a suitable place to put them in without risk of being injured.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

For the Committee.

GEORGE H. GARDNER.

Bulls.

Your Committee on Bulls would respectfully submit the following Report:—

To Frederick C. Sanford, the first premium, $12.00, for the best Jersey bull, "Abe Lincoln."

To James Thompson, the second premium, $10.00,

for the second best Jersey bull, "General Sherman."

To Levi S. Coffin, the third premium, $8.00, for the third best Jersey, "General Burnside."

To Charles C. Folger, the first premium, $12.00, for the best Ayrshire bull, "Tam O'Shanter."

For the Committee,

WILLIAM B. STARBUCK.

Bread and Honey.

Your Committee have attended to the duty assigned them, and report:

Mrs. Margaret Cary exhibited a loaf of brown bread, for which we award a premium of 50 cents; also, one loaf of fruit cake, a premium of 50 cents.

Miss Delia Hobbs Folger, ten years old, a loaf of molasses gingerbread, a premium of 50 cents.

The only sample of honey, entered by Mr. Charles G. Coffin, was remarkable for its quality, and entitled to the first premium of $2.00.

There was but one cheese, entered by Mrs. Charles Folger, which, from its delicious flavor, might defy competition, and we award the first premium of $3.00.

While we allow the cake due praise, the committee would attach more importance to the making of good wheat bread, and regret that none was presented for premium. We think it deserves more attention than it receives, and would urge our island ladies, from their well known skill in this department, to hereafter compete for the highest prize.

ANNE SWAIN,
SARAH THOMPSON, } Committee.

Butter.

Your Committee on Butter found nine lots, numbered from one to nine, inclusive, that conformed to the con-

ditions required by the regulations. It was all good butter, but after a strict examination, your committee found slight differences, enough, however, to enable them to decide on the relative merits of the different lots. The parcels being known to the committee only by their numbers, we could decide without prejudice of any kind, and after careful examination, we determined that lot number five was entitled to the first premium, $4.00.

Lot number nine was excellent and well-made, and takes the second premium, $3.00.

Lot number seven has the third premium, $2.00, and lot number one takes the fourth premium, $1.00.

We now found by the record that number five belonged to Mrs. Charles F. Swain, first premium, four dollars; lot number nine to Mr. Edward Boden, the second premium, three dollars; lot number seven to Mr. Bailey R. Cornish, the third premium, two dollars; and lot number one to Mr. Joseph M. Folger, the fourth premium, one dollar.

Attached to lot number five the record made the statement that this lot was made by Mr. Edward Boden, from sweet cream; the cows fed on grass and corn fodder, salted with good, clean salt, one ounce to the pound; dairy above ground, well ventilated, and sheltered from the south and west sun.

For the Committee,

JOHN H. SHAW.

Manufactured Articles.

To the Nantucket Agricultural Society:—

Your Committee on Manufactures, have to report a very meagre show of "substantial" wares on exhibition, in proof of which we think well to particularize for their very deserving qualities, the Hosiery and Mittens of Mr. Thompson, the Baskets of Roland Folger, and the Brooms of Mr. William M. Barney; and here we

will speak of the manufacture of brooms. We learn that Mr. Craven, of Templeton, a man of experience, has purchased the business from Mr. Barney, and having moved here with his family, intends to go extensively into the raising the corn, and making brooms of every description, for shipment, and hopes to employ a number of hands. We can only wish him God-speed in his undertaking, and recommend that this society lend their encouragement to further the object.

The "Soap" of George Stevens' manufacture, will compare favorably with that of the best city makers.

In the line of the cooper, we saw a very beautiful "Harness Cask," from the cooperage of Charles E. Allen.

Several specimens of painting were exhibited, and deserve praise, viz: those by Mrs. Francis Mitchell, and Miss Lizzie Coggeshall.

The specimen of engraving by John C. Sweet, was very finely executed.

The needlework, by Mrs. Benjamin G. Smith, the ladies tell us was very beautiful.

Our awards are:—

To James Thompson, hosiery and mittens,	$4.00
Rowland Folger, baskets.	2.00
George S. Gibbs, do.,	1.00
Owen Spooner, do.,	1.00
Mrs. Charles W. Gardner, one jar gherkins and sweet pickles,	.50
Mrs. L. H. Wendel, one jar preserved blackberry,	.25
" Samuel B. Swain, one jar do. gooseberry,	.25
" Margaret Cary, one jar pickles, preserves, and native eggs.	.50
Charles Killeen, one model ship,	.50
Charles H. Tracy, one set miniature furniture,	.50
Arthur Gardner, two picture frames,	.50
James W. Folger, two do.,	.50
James W. Folger, one bracket,	.25
John C. Sweet, engraving on metals,	1.00

Mrs. Sally Jones, three pairs hand-knit hose,	.50
" Lewis H. Wendel, knit work,	2.00
Miss Lizzie Coggeshall, paintings,	1.50
" Sharley Baxter, paintings,	.75
Mrs. Lucy S. Mitchell, paintings,	1.00
" Benjamin G. Smith, linen shirts,	1.00
Miss Lizzie Easton, worsted frame,	.25
Hollis N. Herring, one frame,	.25
Arthur Herring, one lamp mat,	.25
J. A. Williams, one violin, made on ship board,	.25
William Clasby, one broom,	.25
Mrs. R. P. Pitman, sweet corn,	.25
Charles D. Coffin, one picture frame,	.25
Charles E. Allen, one harness cask,	1.00
William M. Barney, brooms,	1.00
Edward F. Easton, washing machines,	1 00
George Stevens, fancy soap,	1.00
Lydia Allen, glass baskets, &c.,	.50

For the Committee,

GEORGE W. MACY.

Fancy Articles.

The Committee on Fancy Work, submit the following Report:—

We are gratified to see an increasing ambition on the part of the female portion of the community, to render the tables and glass cases assigned to the display of their taste and ingenuity, as attractive as the world-wide reputation of the women of Nantucket for industry and skill in the use of woman's specialty, the needle, would seem to warrant.

With few exceptions, each article was made in a very perfect manner, and some of the most elaborate work would defy competition, both in execution and correct blending of colors. We hope and believe that the effort to fill the hall with beautiful things this year, is

but an earnest of greater success at our ensuing Fairs, and trust the time is not distant, when future committees on fancy work, shall find it expedient to recommend the erection of a miniature Crystal Palace, for the exhibition of those specimens of exquisite and perfect workmanship, of which we know our women to be capable. Among the young women of the island, there is much latent inventive and imitative power, which we hope to see called into action during the Fair year which now opens, by a laudable desire to excel one another, in novelty of design and superiority of finish in some one article, which each shall contribute to the fancy work portion of the hall. We would recommend the circulation of Harpers' Bazaar, and any other such periodicals as contain designs for useful and ornamental articles, among the daughters of the household, who should be stimulated to copy or design something different from what their companions may be making. Greater variety in the articles exhibited is very desirable, and it is hoped that next year's display will prove that not only the imitative, but also the inventive faculties of our women have been exercised.

Your Committee were surprised to find that but one person had contributed a specimen of her skill in the use of the sewing machine. In this age of progress, when hand-sewing is undoubtedly destined to be superseded by machine-sewing, it behooves every person having the use of any one of the various kinds, whose name is legion, to perfect herself in its application to the necessities of her situation, whether as the head of a family or a public seamstress. For several years, a prominent feature of agricultural fairs and other expositions, has been the case devoted to sewing-machine stitching and embroidery. At the World's Fair, held in the year 1860, the first premium for machine work was awarded to an American lady from California. Her finest specimen of embroidery on a Grover & Baker machine, consisted of a white silk opera cloak, with

rose de chene crape applique in a pattern with embroidery silk. The Empress Eugenie, with her elegant and fastidious taste in dress, admired and wore this cloak. Although every American lady cannot expect to display her handiwork on the person of the one who sets the fashions for the world, yet no one should thereby be deterred from approximating to that degree of perfection which would attract the admiration of persons of cultivated taste. Any person who possesses a machine which forms a chain stitch on the under side, can embroider slippers, flannels, dresses, &c. Those who own lock-stitch machines can make specimens of tucking on fine fabrics, as it requires perseverance and skill to do that well. Elegant specimens of quilting on silk in elaborate designs can also be made with lock-stitch machines. As we presume that many of those who own machines on the island, are able to devote both time and money to the production of some elegant piece of work, we hope that these few suggestions will incite them to a trial of skill.

In examining the specimens of worsted embroidery, the committee find three persons equally entitled to the highest premium, as there is no perceptible difference in the perfectness of their work, and in the amount contributed. Therefore we would recommend the awarding of the first premium of five dollars, to Miss Mary E. Macy; a gratuity of five dollars, equal to the first premium, to Miss Sarah W. Macy; a diploma to Mrs. William C. Swain for worsted work equalling in quality that receiving the first premium.

Miss Mary E. Macy, worsted work.	$5.00
Miss Sarah W. Macy, worsted work,	5 00
Mrs. William C. Swain, worsted work, Diploma.	
Miss Lina Thompson, bead bracket,	1.50
Mrs. Obed C Sandsbury, worsted pictures framed,	1.50
Mrs. George R. Folger, case of shell and wax work,	3.00
Miss Ellen Starbuck, bead bracket,	1.50

Mrs. Charles H. Starbuck, shell picture in frame, $1.00
Mrs. Eliza I. Macy, stones painted in oil, 1 00
Miss Winnie Cary, block-work bedquilt, 1.00
Mrs. A. M. Myrick, basket of feathers 50
Miss Mary S. Coffin, lamp-screen and tidy, .50
Mrs. Benjamin G. Smith, sewing-machine work, .50
Miss Sarah B. Brown, puffed and ruffled chemise, .50
Mrs. Nancy Tallant, diaphane picture, 1.00
Miss Love Calder, patchwork quilt, 50
Mrs. William W. Wood, cattle show, 1 00
Miss Maria Potter, embroidered yokes and bands, .50
Miss Mattie Barnard, two tatting collars, .50
Miss Susie Coffin, crochet tidy, .50
Miss Mary E. Skinner, bracket, watch-case and tidy, .50
Miss Helen Marshall, worsted hassock, .50
Mrs. Deborah Meader, iron holders, .50
Mrs. L. L. Dame, embroidery on flannel, 1.00
Mrs. Nancy Jones, open-worked hose, .50

MARY G. WRIGHT,
ELLEN STARBUCK, } Committee.
ALFRED MACY,

Hymns, Songs and Essays.

To the Nantucket Agricultural Society:—

The "Essay on Agriculture" submitted to your Committee on Hymns, Songs and Essays, has been accepted, and they herein award to the writer, Alexander Macy, Jr., the premium of six dollars.

W. H. STARR,
AVERY T. ALLEN, } Committee.
ARTHUR E. JENKS,

Reports.

At a meeting of the Executive Board held on Monday, December 21st, the following awards were made for the three best reports, viz:—

To Thomas Dawes, for report on Fruit, the first premium of eight dollars.

To Mrs. Mary G. Wright, for report on Fancy Work, the second premium of six dollars.

To George H. Cary, report on Grade and Native Cows, the third premium of four dollars.

Crops.

To the Nantucket Agricultural Society:

Your Committee on Crops have attended to their duty, and report that but two crops have been offered which will come under the rules of the Society.

To Dr. A. Franklin, for the best crop of corn, (for account of which see statement) the first premium of $8.00.

To James Thompson, for his crop of corn, with a statement, the second premium of $6.00.

When the past season opened with a fair amount of rain (after two years of great drought), your Committee were hopeful that a large number of crops would be offered, but the great quantity of rain all through the season has proved that too much of a good thing is as bad as not enough; thus we have but two entries to report, which we respectfully submit.

For the Committee,

JAMES THOMPSON.

Statement concerning a crop of Corn raised by Dr. Augustus Franklin, in the town of Nantucket, 1868.

What was the crop of 1866? Hay.

What manure was used, and how much? None.

What was the crop of 1867? Hay.

What manure was used, and how much? Barn manure, about fifteen loads.

What is the nature of the soil? Sandy loam.

When, and how many times ploughed, and how deep? In the fall; but once; seven inches deep.

What other preparation for the seed? Harrowed both ways.

Cost of ploughing and other preparation? $6.00.

Amount of manure, in loads of thirty bushels, and how applied? Twenty loads spread broadcast, with a few casks of vaulting, some of which being composition was put in the hill.

Value of manure upon the ground? $30.00, including vaulting, and five dollars' worth of compost in the hill.

When, and how planted, and the amount and kind of seed? About the middle of May; in the hill, three and one-half feet apart, using one-half bushel of seed.

Cost of seed and planting? Seed, seventy cents; planting, $4.50.

How cultivated, and how many times? Both ways, with horse twice, and hoed twice; after the corn was considerably grown, hoed again, faithfully.

Cost of cultivation, including weeding and thinning? $12.00.

Time and manner of harvesting? Stalks cut the last of August, at the top, and properly cured and housed; and the first of October cut at the bottom and husked out at the barn.

Cost of harvesting, including the storing and husking or threshing? $12.00.

Amount of straw, stover, or other product? About two tons, $20.00; 73 1-2 bushels shelled corn, $95.55; cost of cultivation, $69.20; Profit, $46.35.

Statement concerning a crop of Corn raised by Mr. James Thompson, in the town of Nantucket, 1868.

What was the crop of 1866? Hay on five-eighths and three-eighths too poor to waste manure on.

What manure was used, and how much? Barn manure, twenty loads to the acre on the five-eighths, none on the three-eighths.

What was the crop of 1867? Hay, as above.

What manure was used, and how much? Same as above.

What is the nature of the soil? three-eighths sandy, five-eighths clay loam, gravel, mould, and some close, for a wet season.

When, and how many times ploughed, and how deep? About the middle of April; once; six inches.

What other preparation for the seed? None.

Cost of ploughing and other preparation? $6.00.

Amount of manure in loads of thirty bushels, and how applied? Twenty loads; broadcast and ploughed in; then a compost made of hen droppings, wash and waste water, vaultings, peat and good earth, well composted, and one quart to the hill, except four rows which were otherwise.

Value of manure upon the ground? $30.00.

When, and how planted, and the amount and kind of seed? May 22d; on every third furrow, by cross-chaining, 3 feet apart; one-half bushel corn.

Cost of seed and planting? Seventy-five cents; $6.00.

How cultivated, and how many times? Horse-hoed three times, both ways; hoed twice.

Cost of cultivation, including weeding and thinning? $9.00.

Time and manner of harvesting? Cut up at bottom 12th of October, and stooked; taken to barn and husked November 5th.

Cost of harvesting, including the storing and husking or threshing? $15.00.

Amount of straw, stover, or other product? About two tons, $20.00; 54 24-56 bushels shelled on Dec. 1st, $71.00; cost of cultivation, $66.75; profit, $24.25.

Remarks.—Two rows across the best portion were not manured in hills; product, good corn, 199 lbs.; poor do., 23 lbs.; total, 142 lbs.

Two rows, Pacific guano, one table-spoonful in a hill; product, good corn, 132 lbs.; poor do., 17 lbs.; total, 149 lbs.

Two next rows, compost, one quart in a hill; product, good corn, 139 1-2 lbs.; poor, 23 do.; total, 162 1-2 lbs.

Northern yellow corn on 3-8 acre; 33 1-2 baskets husked; weight per basket, 47 lbs.; shelled Dec. 1st, 31 lbs.; weight of cobs, 7 lbs.; shrinkage, 9 lbs.

White flint on 5-8 acre; 67 baskets husked; weight per basket, 44 lbs.; weight when shelled, Dec. 1st, 29 lbs.; weight of cobs, 7 lbs.; shrinkage, 44 lbs.

AN ESSAY ON AGRICULTURE.

BY ALEXANDER MACY, JR.

The history of Agriculture is as antiquated as the history of our race. Ages before commerce had whitened the shores of the Mediterranean; ere Tyre and Carthage were resplendent with commercial glory, or Egypt had her granaries and crops, where the sons of Jacob sojourned to procure food for their improvident tribe, the Chinese were devoted to agricultural pursuits. Through every period of our history has Agriculture improved in the exact ratio with man's civilization.

The presiding deities of the Greeks, who deified every element of nature, in their singular and beautiful mythology, show the reverence with which they held the cultivation of the soil and the raising of flocks and herds. Was the ancient Greek to appear again on Earth in form, to awake as it were, he would be more astonished than Rip Van Winkle was, when aroused from his slumbers on the Hudson's bank. After twenty centuries, he would see around him, here on this western continent, steam everywhere; steam to the plow, turning up the rich furrows on the western prairies; threshing out the grain, after having reaped it in the fields, and in the flouring mills, making the wheat for consumption by the millions. What a contrast to his primitive days, when the slow ox, with a long stick fastened to his horns, was dragging a piece of wood scarcely buried in the ground; the oxen were treading out the grain, and the servants were grinding with a hand-mill. Nor would he be less surprised to view all the varied improvements in our agricultural implements which serve to save labor, remove the drudgery of the farmer, and increase the productions of the soil.

It has been truly said, "Agriculture is the mother and nurse of all the arts;" for where agriculture prospers, all the other arts and occupations flourish; while if agriculture fails, the other arts, whether by land or sea, are dried up at the fountain. It is indeed the chief business of life, and furnishes our food, raiment and shelter. Those nations which have adopted it as the great means of support, have sustained themselves under the most devastating wars and disastrous revolutions. France has been borne by her farmers through revolution after revolution. England owes her stability, not to her manufactures, nor yet to her commerce, but to her agriculture, to her lands, the homes of her rural population; and the United States, our own most valued republic, is much indebted for the means to sustain herself through a protracted revolution of years, to a vigorous agricul-

ture. To the thoughtful, the future of agriculture is of great interest. The practical farmer will not be contented with the mere drudgery of life, and all labor is drudgery where the mind takes little or no part in it.

Old methods are gradually passing away before the light of intelligence, and the years are coming, in which farming will not be subservient to all other callings; but the same skill will be exercised in managing a farm, that is now used in manufacturing, in mechanics, and in navigation and commerce. There is much more science and knowledge required to conduct farming successfully, than is demanded to manufacture goods, prosecute voyages, or to build up our cities, steamboats, ships and railroads. Agriculture should rank among the highest of professions and occupations. There is a wider range for intellectual action in farming, than in any other pursuit of civilized life. Beneath and around the farmer lie the subtle forces of nature. Those latent powers are to be brought forth, and require a thorough knowledge of animal and vegetable chemistry, a mixing of "brains with soils," to produce great crops. One reason why greater improvements have not been made in raising crops, stock, and farm management, is because this fact has not been generally recognized, and the dullest class of our young men have been left to remain upon the farm, while the keenest wits have gone to our large towns and cities to follow other occupations, more tasteful and supposed to pay more money. Our Agriculture has been lying torpid from these causes: from the want of intelligence on the subjects of atmosphere, temperature, plants, soils, culture and animals, and from general distaste, arising in part from ignorance of the noble tendencies of the pursuit, and from an erroneous idea that money could not be made as fast and as much as in other business. No pursuit in life is more complicated, requires more intellect, judgment, care, foresight, thought and management, and will better requite labor if scientifically and judiciously applied. The farmer is independent; labor is his capital; having wisely invested it in broad acres of land, a bank which is not subject to fluctuations of rising and falling of stock, he can afford to indulge in that regal luxury, the prerogative of wealth and station—freedom of thought. All the chemical agents are his, to minister to his interest, and he has the ancient promise, if he toil and faint not, "that seed-time and harvest will not fail." All the requisites for success are to observe the proper conditions. Associations and personal experience are the greatest means for improvement to the farmer. He may derive much information and essential benefit from the observance of other farming operations, from county fairs, which bring him in con-

tact with intelligent planters and stock raisers, from state fairs, and all other agricultural organizations, which return to the farmer in every section of our commonwealth, the intelligence in gross, which individuals have collected from every hill-side, stream and valley of the state. The items are like the vapors of the ocean, which have been gathered from the waters that have been silently coursing from tiny mountain rivulets and streams to the great rivers, thence to the sea, to be pumped up by the solar rays, wafted by gentle breezes to mountains and hill-sides, to enrich the plains below in their beneficence. Thus it is with the farmers' social gatherings in the counties, state fairs, &c. Knowledge is widely disseminated, thoughts quicken thoughts, as iron sharpeneth iron. We need but to bring our wits to a cutting edge by grinding them on each other.

Men of intelligence and wealth are engaging in agriculture in our state. Their experience and knowledge is of great value to farmers. New interests are being awakened to the importance of the business, and everywhere is seen better tilled farms, better fed and improved breeds of stock, also better buildings, farming tools, and labor-saving machines. All these elevate him, socially and intellectually.

There is a magnanimity in labor which is known only to him who cherishes a noble ambition to do much and do it well. He will find labor a constant gratification, a necessity of his life, and is best, when in active employment. It is not his to obey, except as he first commands; his time is laid out by himself, and in this there is constant discipline. Such is the life of the intelligent and industrious farmer. His occupation is the promoter of physical health; he becomes robust by active exercise in the open air; his habits being simple, he is not trammelled in his intellectual and moral growth by the false sentiments and fashions of crowded communities. Nature is ever around him, and he lives near her heart in close communion with her forms. "He loves not man the less, but nature more, from these his interviews," and "looks through Nature up to Nature's God."

It is a source of great gratification to agriculturists and to our islanders generally, to view the improvements in the farms in this county. We have more land cultivated, better crops, our stock is of a better quality, better cared for, and the remunerations are consequently greater than in former years, and we have a class of intelligent farmers whose motto is "excelsior."

Lastly, we require intelligent farmers in our commonwealth, and common country, for our national prosperity. There is an important demand in our land for a leading class of intelligent, practical agriculturists. Throughout the length and breadth of our states—from the Atlantic to the Pacific, the Lakes to the Gulf—we want a virtuous, intelligent and energetic race of farmers. Then will the base of our national prosperity be as broad as our domains, and we know no North, no South, but be a happy and united people, whose God is the Lord.

THE NANTUCKET

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

WILL HOLD ITS FOURTEENTH

CATTLE SHOW AND FAIR,

ON

Wednesday and Thursday,

SEPTEMBR 29th AND 30th,

1869:

And all persons are requested to contribute for Exhibition or Premium, all things Useful or Ornamental, which they can produce.

THE SOCIETY

OFFERS THE FOLLOWING LIST OF PREMIUMS,

For the encouragement of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts.

OFFICERS FOR 1868–9.

Being the fourteenth year of the existence of the Nantucket Agricultural Society.

President,

AUGUSTUS FRANKLIN.

Vice-Presidents.

FREDERICK C. SANFORD, WILLIAM H. WAITT,
OBED STARBUCK, EDWARD F. EASTON.

Secretary,

ALEXANDER MACY, JR.

Treasurer,

GEORGE W. MACY.

Standing Committee on Crops,

JAMES THOMPSON, JOSEPH VINCENT,
RICHARD E. BURGESS, WILLIAM B. STARBUCK,
CHARLES C. FOLGER.

Representative to State Board of Agriculture for ensuing three years,

JAMES THOMPSON.

PREMIUMS.

The following is a list of Premiums and Rules and Regulations adopted for the year 1869:—

FARMS.

For the best conducted Farms in the county, two premiums, $25, 20.

TREES.

For the best lot of Pine or other Forest Trees, of not less than five acres, from seed planted within five years, two premiums, $8, 5.

For the best lot of Fruit Trees, not less than twenty in number, and set out within three years, two premiums, $5, 3.

SWAMP LAND.

For reclaiming Swamp Lands, not less than one-half acre, one premium, $6.

PLOWING.

For the best experiments in Plowing, with both oxen and horses, not less than six inches deep, three premiums, $5, 4, 3.

EXPERIMENTAL CROPS.

For the best acre of Corn, three premiums, $6, 5, 4.
" " acre of Rye, one premium, $5.
" " acre of Wheat, two premiums, $5, 3.
" " half-acre of Potatoes, two premiums, $6, 4.
" " acre of Oats, two premiums, $6, 4.
" " acre of Barley, two premiums, $6, 4.
" " acre of Hay, two premiums, $6, 4.
" " quarter-acre of Beets, two premiums, $4, 3.
" " half-acre of Turnips, three premiums, $5, 4, 3.
" " quarter-acre of Carrots, two premiums, $5, 4.
" " quarter-acre of Onions, two premiums, $5, 3.
" " half-acre of Beans, two premiums, $4, 3.
" " half-acre of Cranberries, two premiums, $5, 3.
" " eighth-acre of Strawberries, two premiums, $5, 3.
" " eighth-acre of Blackberries, two premiums, $5, 3.

Two copies of "Flint on Grasses," are at the disposal of the Committee.

VEGETABLES.

Premiums and gratuities on Garden Vegetables will be awarded, not exceeding in amount the sum of thirty dollars.

For the best collection of Vegetables, three premiums, $5, 4, 3.

For the best show of Indian Corn, Wheat, Barley, Oats, Potatoes, Carrots, Beets, Parsnips, Pumpkins, and Cabbages, each fifty cents.

Two copies of "Harris on Insects," will be at the disposal of the Committee for awards of three dollars and upwards, in lieu of the premiums offered.

DOMESTIC ANIMALS.

HORSES.

For the best Stallion, $10.

" " Mare with Colt by her side, three premiums, $5, 4, 3.

" " four years old Colt, raised in county, two premiums, $4, 3.

" " three years old Colt, two premiums, $4, 3.

" " two years old Colt, two premiums, $3, 2.

" " one year old Colt, two premiums, $2, 1.

" " Sucking Colt, two premiums, $2, 1.

" " Walking Horse, tried on track, to walk around course (one-half mile) in seven minutes, two premiums, $2, 1.

For the best Family Horse, three premiums, $4, 3, 2.

" " pair Family Horses, $5.

" " Draught Horse, two premiums, $4, 2.

" " pair Draught Horses, two premiums, $5, 3.

EQUESTRIAN PERFORMANCE.

For the best Equestrian performance, for ladies and gentlemen, three premiums, $4, 3, 2.

COWS AND HEIFERS.

THOROUGH-BREDS.

For the best herd of five thorough-bred Jerseys (and one of the five may be a bull), two premiums, $10, 8.

For the best herd of five thorough-bred Ayrshires (and one of the five may be a bull), two premiums, $10, 8.

For the best thorough-bred Jersey cow, two premiums, $5, 4.

" " " Ayrshire cow, two premiums, $5, 4.

" " two years old Jersey heifer, in milk, two premiums, $4, 3.

" " two years old Ayrshire heifer, in milk, two do., $4, 3.

" " two years old Jersey heifer, two premiums, $3, 2.

" " two years old Ayrshire heifer, two premiums, $3, 2.

" " one year old Jersey heifer, two premiums, $2, 1.

" " one year old Ayrshire heifer, two premiums, $2. 1.

" " Jersey calf, $1.50.

" " Ayrshire calf, $1.50.

GRADES.

Voted at the Annual Meeting, that the standard for grade cows shall be one-half thorough-bred.

For the best herd of grade cows, two premiums, $8, 6.
" " " grade cow, two premiums, $4.50, 3.50.
" " grade two years old heifer, in milk, two do., $3.50, 2.50.
" " grade two years old heifer, two premiums, $2.50, 1.50.
" " grade one year old heifer, $1.50.
" " grade calf, $1.25.
" " four grade two year old heifers, two premiums, $3, 2.

NATIVES.

For the best herd of native cows, two premiums, $6, 4.
" " native cow, two premiums, $4, 3.
" " two years old native heifer, in milk, two premiums, $3, 2.
" " two years old native heifer, two premiums, $2, 1.
" " four two years old native heifers, two premiums, $3, 2.
" " one year old native heifer, $1.
" " calf, $1.

BULLS.

Voted, that the best bull on exhibition, if it has taken the first premium on a previous year, and is entitled to a premium that year, be awarded a Diploma.

For the best Jersey bull, to be kept nine months in the county, two premiums, $12, 10.

For the best Ayrshire bull, to be kept nine months in the county, two premiums, $12, 10.

WORKING OXEN AND STEERS.

For the best yoke of Working Oxen, three premiums, $5, 4, 3.
" " yoke of Steers, three years old, two premiums, $4, 3.
" " yoke of Steers, two years old, two premiums, $3, 2.
" " yoke of yearling Steers, $1.

FAT CATTLE.

For the best pair of fat Oxen, weight to be not less than 3,000 pounds, first premium, $8.

For the best pair fat oxen, weight to be not less than 2,500 pounds, second premium, $6.

For the best fat Ox, weight to be not less than 1,500 pounds, first premium, $5.

For the best fat Ox, weight to be not less than 1,250 pounds, second premium, $4.

For the best fat Cow, two premiums, $4, 3.
" " fat Hog, two premiums, $4, 3.

HOGS.

For the best Boar, two premiums, $4, 2.
" " Sow, with not less than six pigs, three premiums, $5, 3, 2.
" " lot of six pigs and upwards, two premiums, $4, 3.

SHEEP.

For the best Southdown Buck, pure blood, $5.
" " Cotswold Buck, pure blood, $5.
" " Southdown Ewes, not less than five, two premiums, $5, 4.
" " Cotswold Ewes, not less than five, two premiums, $5, 4.
" " lot of not less than five Ewes, mixed blood, two premiums, $4, 3.
For the best lot of Lambs, not less than five in number, two premiums, $3, 2.

POULTRY.

FOWLS.

For the best lot of Fowls, not less than one Cock and six Hens, three premiums, $3, 2, 1.
For the best six Ducks, two premiums, $2, 1.
" " flock of six Geese, two premiums, $3, 2.
" " flock of six Turkies, two premiums, $3, 2.

MISCELLANEOUS.

BREAD, BUTTER, CHEESE AND HONEY.

For the best loaf of Wheat Bread, to weigh two pounds, with statement of process of making, and to be made by competitor, four premiums, $2, 1.50, 1.00, 50 cents. All loaves on exhibition to be numbered, without any names attached.
For the best loaf of Indian bread, with statement, $1.
" " lot of Butter, of not less than ten pounds, four premiums, $4, 3, 2, 1.
For Cheese, the Committee will award gratuities, not exceeding in amount, $5.
For the best display of Honey, two premiums, $2, 1.

FRUITS.

The Committee will make awards for Fruits, amounting to not more

than sixty dollars. To be distributed at the discretion of the Committee, $10.

For the best collection of house grapes, not less than three varieties, two premiums, $5, 3.

For the best collection of out-door grapes, not less than three varieties, two premiums, $3, 2.

For the best collection of pears, not less than ten varieties, of eight specimens each, two premiums, $5, 3.

For the best and largest collection of apples, not less than five varieties, two premiums, $3, 2.

For the best single dish of grapes, of every variety, $1.

For the best single dish of pears, of every variety, $1.

Those receiving an award for best collection, cannot receive an award for a single dish, if in the collection.

Three copies of "Harris on Insects" will be at the disposal of the Committee for awards of three dollars and upwards, in lieu of the premiums offered.

FLOWERS.

For the best and largest collection of flowers, three premiums, $3, 2, 1.

For the best and largest collection of house plants, never before exhibited, $3.

For the best show of cut-flowers, two premiums, $2, 1.50.

For the best bouquet of flowers, 75 cents.

For the best single flower, $2.

For Committee to distribute in gratuities, $5.

Those receiving the award for collection, cannot receive award for single flower.

One copy of "Harris on Insects" will be at the disposal of the Committee, in lieu of the premiums offered for the best collection of flowers.

HYMNS, SONGS, AND ESSAYS.

For the best Song, $5.

For the best Essay on Agriculture, $6.

For the best Hymn, $2.

MANUFACTURES.

Premiums and Gratuities will be awarded for Manufactured Articles, not exceeding thirty-seven dollars.

For the best lot of six pairs Boots and Shoes, two premiums, $3, 2.

For the best single pair, $1.

For the best lot of Hosiery and Knit Goods, two premiums, $4, 2.

For the best lot of Willow or Rattan Baskets, two premiums, $2, 1.

For the best collection of Photographs or Paintings, two premiums, $3, 2.

For the best carriage of home manufacture, $5.

For the best Carriage Harness, $3.

For the best collection of Tin Plate Work, $2.

To be distributed at the discretion of the Committee, if required, $10.

FANCY ARTICLES.

The Committee will make awards for Fancy Articles, not exceeding in amount, twenty-five dollars.

For the best specimen of Worsted Work, two premiums, $3, 2.

For the best specimen of sewing-machine Fancy Work, two do., $3, 2.

REPORTS.

For the further promotion of Agriculture, and the encouragement to Committees to make full Reports, accompanied with such statements as will be of general interest and service, the Society offers additional premiums, as follows:

For the best statement of the course pursued in raising a premium Vegetable crop, $3.

For the best Report, three premiums, $8, 6, 4.

MANURES.

For the best experiment with Manure, with a statement in writing, which is to be left with the Secretary previous to the first of October, showing the kind and cost, two premiums, $10, 6.

The following standard for crops was adopted, falling below which, no crop shall be deemed entitled to a premium:

For Indian Corn, 50 bushels to the acre.
" Wheat, 20 bushels to the acre.
" Oats, 35 bushels to the acre.
" Barley, 40 bushels to the acre.
" Rye, 15 bushels to the acre.
" Potatoes, 250 bushels to the acre.
" Turnips, 500 bushels to the acre.
" Carrots, 600 bushels to the acre.
" Onions, 300 bushels to the acre.
" Beets, 800 bushels to the acre.
" Beans, 20 bushels to the acre.
" Hay, three tons to the acre.

All premiums will be awarded on the following conditions, viz:

All persons exhibiting breeding stock, are required to state in writing, to the Secretary, *at the time of making their entries*, the breed and pedigree of the animals, so far as known to them.

Competitors for premiums for herds or single cows, are required to state in writing, to the Secretary, at the time of *making their entries*, the time when said cows last calved, and how they have been fed. They can select any two cows, and bull, (if one) from the herd, and enter them for the best and second best single cows, and best bull also.

All persons competing for the premiums for Crops, are required to make their entries with the Chairman of the Committee on Crops, and receive from him a blank to be filled out, in writing, as follows:—For Hay, on or before June 1st; for Grain Crops, on or before July 1st; for Corn and Root Crops, on or before August 1st, 1869; and no person will be paid unless all these conditions are complied with.

First Day.

The FAIR and EXAMINATION of the STOCK, excepting Horses, will commence on the first day of the Fair, at 10 o'clock, A. M., and all animals will be required to remain in the pens until 3 o'clock, P. M., or until released by the Committee.

The PLOWING MATCH will commence at 2 o'clock, P. M.